

LGED Newsletter

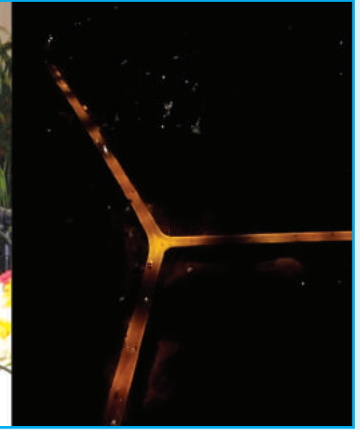
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850 meter long Sheikh Hasina Teesta bridge



Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opens newly built bridges on the rivers Teesta and Titas through video conferencing from Ganabhaven



Night time view of 771 meter Sheikh Hasina Titas Bridge

Honourable Prime Minister opens newly built bridges on the rivers Teesta and Titas

Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated two new bridges—one in the northern district Rangpur and another in eastern district Brahmanbaria. The “Sheikh Hasina Teesta Bridge” built on the river Teesta will connect the districts of Lalmonirhat and Rangpur while the bridge on Titas built in Bancharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria has been named as “Sheikh Hasina Titas Bridge”.

The Prime Minister formally opened the bridges to traffic through a video conferencing from Ganabhaven on 16 September 2018. During the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister talked to the local people's representatives and people from all strata of life of the two districts. State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Md. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MP, State Minister for Social Welfare Nuruzzaman Ahmed, MP and district administration officials joined the video conferencing from Gangachara point at Rangpur.

On the other hand, those who were connected from Bancharampur end of Brahmanbaria included Capt.(retd.) A B Tajul Islam, MP, Yusuf Abdullah Haroon, MP, Faizur Rahman, MP, officials of LGED and district administration and members of the public from Bancharampur and the adjoining Homna and Muradnagar upazilas of Cumilla. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

said these newly built bridges would substantially contribute to faster communication, expansion of education and health services as well as achieve overall socio economic development in these regions. Detailing various development projects implemented during the tenure of the present government, the Prime Minister said whenever people vote for the symbol of boat they get development and it is a fact that the country marches forward when Awami League is voted to power.

About the Teesta bridge, Sheikh Hasina said with the completion of the infrastructure, the distance between Dhaka and Lalmonirhat has been shortened by about 40 kilometers. It will help expand trade and commerce and bring about a marked change in the lifestyle of the local people. She said the district Rangpur was once known as an area of Monga (seasonal unemployment). The country achieved food autarky for the first time in 1996 when Awami League formed the government. Since voted to power in December 2008, the word Monga is in oblivion. The people of northern region have forgotten the word Monga.

The 850 meter long and 9.6 meter wide “Sheikh Hasina Teesta Bridge” with 17 spans has been constructed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at a cost of 123 crore and 81 lakh taka. The bridge will help faster

communications with neighboring countries like India, Nepal and Bhutan via Burimari land port at Lalmonirhat. It will also usher in a new era of development in agriculture and import-export as well as in the expansion of education, health services and tourism.

The newly constructed Y shaped “Sheikh Hasina Titas Bridge” has been built on the confluence of the Titas river and its channels at Bancharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria district and the Homna upazila under Cumilla district. The first ever Y shaped bridge constructed in the country has facilitated in uninterrupted road communications between Bancharampur, Homna and Muradnagar upazilas. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Prime Minister said there had been arguments and counter arguments among the three upazilas centering the bridge. It was solved through change brought in the design, which showed that a part of the bridge will connect Muradnagar with Bancharampur while another segment from Bancharampur will touch Homna point. Thus the bridge got a new look and was constructed based on the Y shaped design. With the completion of the bridge, direct road communications has been established between Bancharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria district and the adjoining Homna and Muradnagar upazilas of Cumilla district.

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Editorial

Delta Plan 2100: Step towards building a developed Bangladesh

Bangladesh is reaping the benefit of planned economy by achieving increased gross domestic product (GDP), attaining higher per capita income and maintaining grip on inflation. Social sector is also showing positive trend in tandem. But the adverse effect of climate change on the overall developmental efforts remains a growing concern. The "Delta Plan 2100" has been approved at the National Economic Council presided over by the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 4 September 2018 on how to proceed on the path of sustainable development keeping in view the reality of climate change.

Delta Plan 2100 aims at securing the future of water resources and mitigate against the likely adverse effects of climate change including natural disasters. The master plan also envisages to overcome the challenges related to sustainable management of water, climate, environment and land for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by the year 2030 and turning the country into a prosperous one by 2041 through eliminating poverty.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had thought about optimum utilization of the water resources through proper management. He had once told his daughter, the present Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to have a tour of the Netherlands since this European country has similar riverine topography. Honourable Prime Minister later undertook several visits to the Netherlands and was attracted by the experience of water management. Thus, the Delta Plan 2100 has been taken up in line with the directives of the Honourable Prime Minister. The Delta Plan is a long-term vision of the Delta's future. This long-term vision, combined with the use of scenarios, allows planning to be adaptive and dynamic by constantly taking into account uncertainties in future developments in e.g. climate change, socio-economic development, population growth and regional cooperation. The Delta Plan is more than just a one-time planning exercise and aims to provide the foundation for permanent delta governance in Bangladesh through the outlining of a delta framework. The government is calling 'hotspots' the places that have been prioritised in the plan. The six hotspots are the coastal areas, Varendra or Barind and drought-prone areas, Haor or backswamps and flood-prone areas, hilly areas, river and estuaries region and urban areas. The Delta Plan 2100 is a long-term strategy based on aquatic science and water resources to prevent floods and soil erosion, manage rivers and wastes, and supply water throughout the century.

Delta fund will be created for the implementation of the Delta plan. The funding is likely to come from Government of Bangladesh, development

partners, climate change fund and public-private partnership (PPP). It may be mentioned that LGED is involved in the small scale water resources development since 1995 and the sector has been included as an important component in the Delta Plan. As per National Water Policy, LGED implements various projects in the Participatory Small Scale Water Resources sector upto one thousand hectares command area. These include re excavation of canals and ponds, construction of facilities for setting up rubber dam, irrigation channel, embankment, sluice gates, regulator and various flood control structures and construction of irrigation facilities. LGED is relentlessly working for ensuring increased agricultural and fisheries production, creation of employment opportunities, nutritional development and poverty reduction through proper use of surface water. The Small Scale Water Resource Development programme of LGED has made remarkable contribution in boosting agri and fish production. Major thrust of this programme is to empower women and reduce poverty.

LGED is also working in building climate resilient and sustainable infrastructures. As part of that programme, LGED is constructing cyclone shelters in the coastal areas, which has helped in saving lives and property of the people during natural disasters. Besides, strengthening its own capacity in the construction of climate resilient infrastructures, LGED is also working in the institutional development of the local government institutions. LGED has taken up an initiative supported by Global Climate Fund to set up a research centre titled "Climate Resilient Local Infrastructure Centre (CRLIC)" "to evolve sustainable innovative models and human resource development. The agency is also conducting a research programme titled "Research for Community Access Partnership" (RECAP) under DFID with the objectives of building sustainable rural infrastructures those are resilient to climate change and natural disasters. Similarly, LGED runs special projects on building climate change and disaster resilient infrastructures under the National Resilient Programme.

The Delta Plan 2100 is being considered as a major step towards developing infrastructures supportive to water resource development, food security and climate resilience. Successful implementation of the Delta Plan 2100 will pave the way for achieving the target of building Bangladesh as a developed nation. LGED believes that the process of successful completion of this master plan will further expand its horizon of the work and will add to enrichment of its experience towards achieving continued institutional success.

Teesta and Titas

(contd. from page 01)

Road communication is now easier as the bridge connects Homna upazila with Cumilla road via Cumilla-Sylhet highway.

It has reduced the distance between Bancharampur upazila sadar and Brahmanbaria district headquarters by 12 kilometer and the distance between Homna and Cumilla city by 10 to 12 kilometers. Similarly, the distance between Gausia point of Narayanganj district and capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport via Dhaka's Purbachal has been shortened by nearly 35 kilometers. The 771 meter long and 8.10 meter wide "Sheikh Hasina Titas Bridge" has been built at a cost of 99 crore 86 lakh taka by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). The inauguration ceremony at Ganabhavan point was addressed among others by Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and cooperatives Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, and Senior Secretary, Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan. Principal Secretary to the Honourable Prime Minister Md. Nojibur Rahman moderated the function.

It may be mentioned that provisions like footpath for pedestrians and electric lights have been installed in both the bridges for safe movement of vehicles. Adequate vertical clearance has been maintained from the highest flood level for safe navigation. The bridges with connecting roads have become locations for spending leisure time.

Progress review meeting on ADP held



Chief Engineer LGED, Md. Abul Kalam Azad speaking at the Progress Review Meeting of ADP

Local Government Engineering Department has maintained a steady level of progress in the implementation of Annual Development Programme of 2017-18. The ADP implementation rate was 99.60 which is highest ever in recent years. It was possible because of the sincere efforts put in by the officers and staff of all ranks of the organisation which needs to be maintained in the coming years. This was stated by the Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad while

speaking at the review meeting on the progress of 2017-18 Annual Development Programme held at the LGED headquarters on 17 July 2018.

He said the trust reposed by the government and the development partners on LGED is ever increasing. We need to come up with new and innovative ideas and ensure the quality of work. The Chief Engineer also emphasised on fast track implementation of road infrastructure

development and rehabilitation schemes undertaken following last year's floods. He urged for ensuring compliance to this end set by the Planning Commission related to the identification of road and the road design standard. He further said the effective utilization of field level laboratories should be reviewed and called for discharging responsibilities with efficiency. He also directed the senior officers to undertake field level visits through coordination. The Chief Engineer reminded the officials to aware the contractors to be more responsible.

He also said that there should be strict adherence to contract management so that the projects could be completed on schedule. Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad urged all to be more responsible in maintaining overall discipline and cleanliness at their offices. He said hydrological study should be completed prior to the construction of roads and bridges in Haor areas (extensive marsh) and ensure protection of biodiversity. Reminding the officials about the Honourable Prime Minister's directive to this end, he said necessary circular has been issued by the Directorate of Haor and Waterbody Development.

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Views exchanged on Delta Plan 2100

The Delta Plan 2100, which aims to provide food and water security and fight natural disasters, was approved at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting on 4 September 2018. The master plan has been taken up as part of government's initiative to undertake home grown developmental goals.

Prior to the approval of the plan, a view exchange meeting was held at the LGED headquarters on 16 August 2018 as part of eliciting opinion of the stakeholders. Member (Senior Secretary) of the Planning Commission's General Economic Division (GED) Prof. Dr. Shamsul Alam gave a key note speech. He said the Delta Plan 2100 aims at securing the future of water resources and mitigate against the likely effects of climate change including natural disasters, food security, economic development and improvement of institutional capacity. He said they had 26 studies done by local experts and prepared the plan in consultation with different stakeholders. It took them three and a half years.



Member of General Economic Division of the Planning Commission Dr. Shamsul Alam speaking at a view exchange meeting on draft Delta Plan 2100

General Economic Division of the Planning Commission will act as the nodal agency for the overall implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the plan. A high-level committee to be named as the Delta Governance Council, led by the honourable prime minister, would be formed to execute the Delta Plan 2100. The council will take decision and provide direction in the implementation

of The Delta Plan. The plan highlighted six hotspots: coastal areas; Barind Tract and drought-prone region; haor (backswamp) and flash flood prone areas; Chittagong Hill Tracts region; river region and estuaries; and the urban region. 33 challenges have been identified in these hotspots. A number of strategies have been planned to overcome the problems of these hotspots.

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Country Director of UNOPS in Bangladesh Stefan Kohler speaking at the NRP inception meeting

National Resilient Programme (NRP): Build sustainable infrastructure based on research, art of technology and experience

- Chief Engineer

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries faced with climate change. The country is facing various challenges related to climate change resilient sustainable infrastructures. There is a need to evolve strategies for building climate change resilient infrastructures. This was stated by chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of inception programme of the National Resilient Programme (LGED part) held at the LGED Headquarters on 16 July 2018.

He said LGED would like to use research findings, art of technology and experience in the formulation of a strategy to build climate change resilient sustainable infrastructures. National Resilient Programme (NRP) of the UN will provide necessary technical assistance to LGED to this end. The Chief Engineer said Bangladesh, though small in size, is endowed with unique topography. He said the country has been divided into six hotspots in the Delta Plan 2100 which have distinctive characteristics. The northern part is drought prone, southern zone is vulnerable to climate change and disaster, while the haor areas experience floods. He said due to diverse physical landmass, LGED cannot design any uniform model in the construction of physical infrastructures. The agency has to undertake development works based on the zonal reality. Citing some examples he said infrastructures like embankments, bridges and approach roads have been

threatened by the adverse effect of disasters, floods and climate change.

In view of this reality, it is essential to determine the DOs and Don'ts in the countrywide infrastructural development on priority basis, the Chief Engineer added. Speaking at the function, Bangladesh Country Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Stefan Kohler said the UN agency is providing technical assistance to Bangladesh Government in developing sustainable development. He said there is no alternative to sustainable infrastructures in the continued development and achieving the target of SDGs. He said the NRP has been developed in the light of four priority subjects under Sendai Framework. It may be mentioned that the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30" declaration was adopted at the 3rd UN conference held in Sendai, Japan on 18 March 2015. He said Sendai is a coordinated programme which will help achieve the goals of other programmes.

Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Iftekhar Ahmed said NRP is a technical assistance project under which asset management capacity, planning, design, compliance and institutional capacity will be developed. He said Ministry of Disaster Management, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Planning Commission and LGED will implement the programme in a coordinated manner. NRP Project Director Md. Jasim Uddin and Team Leader of NRP-UNOPS Joy Jakosalem-Balane

gave two presentations on LGED part of the programme. The main objective of the programme is to implement the schemes for the longterm infrastructural development those are socially inclusive and enhances capacity of LGED and agencies concerned for reducing vulnerability, user friendly as well as addressing people with special needs and attention to gender gap. National Resilient Programme will directly contribute to achieving the SDG goal-6 on safe water and sanitation, goal-9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure and goal-11 on sustainable urban and habitat.

26.34 crore taka will be spent in LGED part as part of technical assistance. UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) will provide 23.72 crore taka while Bangladesh Government will give 2.73 crore taka. The programme that began in January 2018 will continue till 2022.

Supporting Rural Bridges Programme

(contd. from page 09)

Superintending Engineer (Bridges) Md. Allah Hafiz said there are certain indices related to procurement under the programme, which are called Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI). The procurement should be done by strictly following the preconditions of the indices. Project Director of RTIP-2 Md. Enamul Haque said maintenance work for small, medium and large bridges/culverts will be done under the project and if necessary new bridges/culverts will be constructed. He said on first year, schemes will be selected by following traditional method and bridge management software will be used subsequently.

Supporting Rural Bridges Programme will be implemented in 61 districts at a cost of 5008 crore taka. Implementation of the programme began in September 2018 and expected to end in August 2023. The project is being jointly financed by Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank.



Former Professor of Civil Engineering Department of BUET and Professor, Emeritus of Asia Pacific University Dr. M. Shamim Z. Basunia speaking at the workshop

Use of concrete in infrastructure development: Future thoughts

There is a need for proper attention to be given in the use of concrete in infrastructure development. Quality concrete is essential for sustainable and standard infrastructures. Concrete grade needs to be determined for construction work in the quake prone areas based on the test results. Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad said this while addressing as chief guest at workshop on "LGED's Current Practice of Structural Concrete Works and Way Forward" held on 3 July 2018 at the LGED headquarters. In his welcome speech Additional Chief Engineer (Implementation) Md. Khalilur Rahman said LGED is building infrastructures across the country and the longevity of these structures largely

depends on the quality of concrete. The objective of the workshop was to exchange ideas on the current practice of concrete used by LGED and use of better quality concrete for safe and sustainable infrastructures.

Taking part in the panel discussion, former Professor of Civil Engineering Department of BUET and Professor Emeritus of University of Asia & Pacific Dr. M. Shamim Z. Basunia urged LGED to be more cautious in the use of concrete. He said good quality concrete ensures safety and longevity of the infrastructures. Manufacturing quality of cement is very important for good quality concrete. Cement constitutes six components and any imbalance of these elements makes the quality of

cement vulnerable. He said proper specification, gradation, water content and strength should be ensured in the use of concrete. Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University Dr. Munaz Ahmed Noor suggested for the use of mobile mixing plant in place of fixed mixing plant. He also suggested for the use of natural sand for making concrete.

He said quality control and assurance plan is essential for ensuring the quality of concrete. He also emphasised on proper curing to ensure strength of the concrete side by side for capacity building of the institutions. Speaking on the occasion Head of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of the Islamic University of Technology Dr. Md. Tarek Uddin said there should be standard determining indices for fixing the quality of cement. He said chemical admixture is a good composition and composite cement is best suited for use in coastal zone. He recommended for collaborative efforts between LGED and research agencies for evolving an appropriate method for the construction of infrastructures in coastal belt.

Three separate presentations were given at the workshop namely 'Practice in LGED: Weakness in Concrete Works', 'Research on Climate Resilient Reinforced Concrete Structure in the Marine Environment of Bangladesh' and 'Training and quality control measures of concrete work'. Officials at various levels of LGED attended the workshop.

(contd. from page 03)

The initial projects will include 65 for infrastructure development and 15 for developing organisational capabilities, skills and research for 2030.

The projects are expected to add 1.5 percentage points to the annual growth of Bangladesh's economy by 2030.

This is the first time Bangladesh has taken such a long-term plan. Water scarcity is the main problem in the Barind and drought-prone region. The government is taking measures to conserve rainwater in the region for irrigation and other uses under the Delta Plan 2100.

Sanitation and shortage of drinking water are the problems in the Haor areas, where the government will

dredge rivers to conserve rainwater as well as prevent flash floods, according to Prof Alam.

Emphasis has been given on the formation of community based water management societies based on the recommendations of the experienced international experts. Importance has been laid on capacity building of the main agencies to be involved in the implementation of the plan like GED, WARPO, BWDB, Haor and Water Body Management Board, Department of Environment, DAE, Department of Fisheries, LGED, Department of Forest, City Corporations concerned, newly created local water management societies and ministries concerned and agencies. The plan also includes work

to prevent salinity, and cyclone and other natural disasters. For successful implementation of the plan, emphasis has been given on transboundary dialogue. Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad thanked the Member (Senior Secretary) of Planning Commission Dr. Shamsul Alam for the presentation of Delta Plan.

Two presentations were also made on Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CCRIP) and Sustainable Small Scale Water Resources Development Project (SSSWRDP). Dutch government and the World Bank have both helped the General Economic Division (GED) in the preparation of the plan. LGED officials attended the view exchange meeting.

Two Additional Chief Engineers went on retirement



Iftekhar Ahmed

Additional Chief Engineer Iftekhar Ahmed has gone on retirement on 21 July 2018 after completing his career in LGED. Iftekhar Ahmed had joined LGED in September 1983 as upazila engineer. He discharged his responsibilities as upazila engineer and district engineer at field level and later was posted as executive engineer at the headquarters in October 1992. Afterwards he worked as deputy project director and project director. Iftekhar Ahmed was promoted as Superintending Engineer in June 2012 and Additional Chief Engineer in 2016. Spanning over a period of 35 years, he served the agency with professionalism and dedication.

Iftekhar Ahmed was born in Abhoynagar of Jashore district on 22 July 1959. He received bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the then Rajshahi Engineering College in 1982 and later earned post graduate degree from Cardiff University of the United Kingdom in 1997 in Urban Planning. He is the father of two sons. His spouse Shamima Ahmed is a homemaker.



Noor Mohammad

Additional Chief Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department Noor Mohammad went on retirement on 29 September 2018 on completion of government service. He joined LGED in February, 1984 as an assistant engineer and was posted at field level as assistant engineer, upazila engineer and executive engineer. He was posted as Assistant Chief Engineer at the headquarters in 2007 and later worked as project director at the headquarters. Noor Mohammad was promoted to the rank of Superintending Engineer in 2012 and later to the post of Additional Chief Engineer in 2017. In more than 34 years of career, he discharged responsibilities with professional excellence and dedication.

Noor Mohammad was born in Bagha upazila under Rajshahi on 30 September 1959. He was graduated from the then Rajshahi Engineering College in 1982 in civil engineering and later completed post graduate degree in Urban Planning from Cardiff University of the United Kingdom in 2000. He is the father of one son and two daughters and her spouse Meher Nigar is a homemaker.



Additional Chief Engineers Iftekhar Ahmed and Noor Mohammad is on the dais with the Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad at the ADP review meeting.

Progress review on ADP

(contd. from page 03)

He suggested for determining the bridge spans at the design level taking into account the navigability of the rivers and movement of the riverine vessels. Detailing the implementation progress of the previous year, Additional Chief Engineer of LGED Noor Mohammad said the allocation in the revised ADP was 11,829.04 crore taka. The government allocated the amount for 144 investment projects and four technical assistance projects.

Allocation in ADP for LGED is ever increasing and it increased to the tune of 13,727.87 crore taka during 2018-19 fiscal year. He termed the success of LGED as a glaring example of institutional capacity. The meeting was addressed among others by LGED Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Iftekhar Ahmed, Additional Chief Engineer (IWRM) P. K. Chowdhury and Additional Chief Engineer Khondaker Alinoor. Senior officials of LGED were present.

Review meeting of 2018-19 Fiscal Year

Meanwhile, a review meeting on project implementation for the year 2018-19 was held at the LGED Headquarters on 17 September 2018. Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad who presided, underlined the need for undertaking specific work plan for the 2018-19 fiscal and urged the officials to complete the work within stipulated time.

Special attention should be given to ensure quality of work, he added. The meeting was addressed among others by LGED Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management) Khondaker Alinoor. Additional Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Project Directors, Executive Engineers of 64 districts and senior officials of headquarters were present.



LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad addressing the orientation session for the newly appointed engineers

Orientation for the newly appointed engineers

LGED has earned the confidence of the government, people and the development partners. Currently the agency is implementing various schemes across the country in rural, urban and small scale water resources sectors in collaboration of 26 development partners. The organisation has a pool of skilled and efficient workforce and has received accolades at home and abroad. LGED is also a learning institution. This was stated by the Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul

Kalam Azad while presiding over an orientation programme arranged for the newly recruited Assistant Engineers and Upazila Assistant Engineers. Welcoming the freshers into LGED, he said inclusion of the new engineers in the mainstream of the organisation will add a new dimension in speeding up of the dynamic growth of the agency.

98 Assistant/Upazila Assistant Engineers joined LGED on 28 June 2018. A three day orientation session was organised for the newly recruited

engineers that had began on 1st July 2018 to give an overview of the overall activities of the organisation. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Khalilur Rahman urged them to go to rural areas and work for the people. Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Iftekhar Ahmed said there might be obstacles in the way of discharging responsibilities, but those can be overcome through efficiency. Terming LGED as a dream house, he urged them to give new insight into the organisation. Additional Chief Engineer (IWRM) P. K. Chowdhury said the rural infrastructures built by LGED is contributing to the country's socio-economic development and added that the area of operation is ever expanding. Addressing the gathering Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management) Khondaker Alinoor called upon the new entrants to keep themselves abreast of the current affairs for attaining professional excellence. Additional Chief Engineer (Maintenance) A. K. Azad said maintenance should be given importance side by side with the construction. Senior officials of LGED were present at the inaugural session of the orientation programme.



Participants at the training session on Mobile Application

Mobile application: training on field inspection and monitoring system

Monitoring of quality and standard of the infrastructures build across the country is a complex task. To ease job, a mobile application titled Field Inspection and Monitoring System (FIMS) has been developed by the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-2) under LGED. Day long

training programmes for two batches were held on 28 and 29 August 2018 to introduce the newly developed apps. About 40 participants including executive engineers, senior assistant engineers, upazila engineers and assistant engineers at headquarters and field level attended the training.

Hands on training was imparted on various aspects of the apps. Inaugurating the training session, Superintending Engineer of Integrated Water Resources Management Unit (P&D) Habibul Aziz said LGED is using modern technology for improvement of standard of its works. The application will help to a great extent to ensure quality work in the development of physical work in the rural areas. The application is already in use in the monitoring of the ongoing civil works at field level. The apps is being used for collection of pictures of the work site, capture video and filling up of inspection forms as well as interaction with agencies concerned.

The apps has eased the designing of form/templates within a short time and it can be used in the monitoring of the development activities of all sectors of LGED. The information stored in the apps can be preserved in the designated data base for follow up and future references.



First Chief Engineer of LGED late Quamrul Islam Siddique during a visit to local office (Photo; collected)

Tenth anniversary of death of Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddique observed

Rich tributes were paid to the memory of LGED's first Chief Engineer late Quamrul Islam Siddique's 10th anniversary of death. Late Engineer Siddique widely regarded as the pioneer of social engineering in the country was born in Kushtia district on 20 January 1945. He died in New Jersey of the United States on 1 September 2008 of heart attack. Quamrul Islam Siddique was graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in 1966 in Civil Engineering and received post graduate degree from Sheffield University of the United

Kingdom in Urban and Regional Planning in 1977. He was a personality with extraordinary talent, high level of professional skill and modern outlook. He is well known for vision of rural infrastructural development. His unprecedented farsighted vision for rural infrastructural development in the post independence period remains a guiding force for the development practitioners. Rural development achieved a new height under his guidance through time befitting planning and initiatives. A valiant freedom fighter late Siddique charted his course of action based on

the spirit of the war of liberation. The nation gratefully remembers his contribution in the uplift of socio-economic condition of the rural people.

Quamrul Islam Siddique was gifted with efficient managerial skill and innovative thinking. His sagacity and wisdom had immensely contributed to the institutional excellence of LGED and helped earn accolades from home and abroad. He also worked as Secretary to the government, Chairman of Bangladesh Power Development Board, President of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Executive Director of Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board and was the elected Chairman of the Global Water Partnership of South Asian Region for 2003-04 term.

Late Quamrul Islam Siddique will remain as an icon in the field of rural infrastructural development in South Asian region. A milad mahfil (special prayer session) was held at the LGED headquarters and at district level offices on 31 October, 2018 to mark the 10th anniversary of death of Quamrul Islam Siddique. Besides, TV channels aired discussion programmes to mark the anniversary.



Additional Chief Engineer of LGED's Rangpur division Md. Afzal Hossain died in a tragic road accident on 11 October, 2018 morning (Inna....Rajeun). He was 59. The car crash happened while he was on his way to Dinajpur from Rangpur to

attend the video conferencing. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was scheduled to address a gathering via video conferencing in the morning at the opening ceremony of 33 development works completed by LGED. The video conferencing over at the Ganabhaban end, Senior Secretary of Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan and Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad informed the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP about the tragic accident. Honourable Prime Minister and the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister expressed deep shock and sorrow and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul. Namaz-e-Janaza of late Md. Afzal Hossain was held at the LGED headquarters on 12 October 2018.

Md. Afzal Hossain was born in Naogaon district on 7 December 1959. He was graduated from Khulna Engineering College in Civil Engineering in 1981 and joined the then Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) in 1984 as upazila engineer. Driver of the vehicle Md. Hafizur Rahman who was seriously injured in the accident also died in Rangpur Medical College Hospital on 15 October 2018 while undergoing treatment (Inna....Rajeun).

Obituaries



Office Assistant-cum-Typist/Computer Operator Nasreen Begum posted at LGED headquarters

under "Greater Faridpur Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (2nd phase) died of heart attack at her home in Kotpara, Kushtia on 24 August 2018. She was 57. Late Nasreen was buried at her family graveyard.



Retired Accountant of LGED Md. Mozammel Haq died of heart attack on 18 July 2018 (Inna....Rajeun).

He was 65.



Retired Administrative Officer of LGED Md. Lutfur Rahman died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital on 9 July, 2018. (Inna....Rajeun). He was

62. He was buried at Agargaon New Colony graveyard. He left behind wife, one son and three daughters to mourn his death.

Alhaj Zainab Begum, Mother of Senior Assistant Engineer of LGED Sheikh Tajul Islam Tuhin, died on 19 July 2018 while undergoing treatment.

(Inna....Rajeun). She was 70. She is survived by seven children and many well wishers. LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the death of his colleagues and their close relations and prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls.



Additional Chief Engineer (Maintenance) A. K. Azad speaking at the inaugural session of the training

Supporting Rural Bridges Programme : Training on Techniques of Data Collection of Bridges

Two training sessions on techniques on inspection and data collection of bridges was organized at the LGED headquarters under LGED's Supporting Rural Bridges Programme. On the first year of the programme, this training was arranged to give an idea on inspection method and on the programme for enhancing efficiency for data collection for evaluation of present condition of the bridges and culverts of 61 districts. A

total of 541 zonal and district level executive engineers, senior assistant engineers and upazila level sub assistant engineers took part in the training sessions in six batches held from 12-14 and 28-30 August 2018. World Bank aided RTIP-2 project arranged the training programme. Speaking at the inaugural session, Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) of LGED Noor Mohammad said the

programme has been undertaken to keep the rural communications network serviceable. Maintenance and rehabilitation of roads and culverts will be taken up under the project. Supporting Rural Bridges Programme is not a project; basically it is a long term programme. The programme will be implemented in line with the World Bank Programme for Result (PFR) approach. He said schemes under the programme should be selected very cautiously. Selection of contractors for the work will be treated as misprocurement if the schemes are not properly selected.

He said a public committee will be formed at upazila level for selection of the schemes whereby opinion of the members of the committee will be sought for final selection of the schemes. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division under Planning Commission will monitor the progress of the implementation as third party. Additional Chief Engineer (Maintenance) A. K. Azad said maintenance of bridges and culverts is not easy as it is in the case of rehabilitation and maintenance of road. He also called for taking extra caution in taking up schemes. (See Page 04)

Planned urbanisation in Ishwardi Municipality



A section of rehabilitated road



Periodic cleaning of drain in Ishwardi Municipality

The road that leads to Ishwardi town from railway station now gives altogether a new look with wide and well maintained roads, drainage system in place, new shopping centres coming up and road side dustbins inscribed with 'composting waste and non-composting waste'. All these are manifestation of a planned urbanisation now taking place in this municipal area under Pabna, a

northern district in the country. Most of streets including lanes and by lanes are getting illumination facility from the road side light posts, while internal roads have no potholes. In a nutshell it is a quiet and tidy township with all civic amenities. The planned development of Ishwardi municipality has been undertaken by LGED's Third Urban Governance and Infrastructural

Improvement Project (UGIIP-3). Importance of Ishwardi municipality is ever growing as the locality houses railway junction, adjacent Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant and the Export Processing Zone-EPZ. Despite several challenges faced by Ishwardi Municipality, this local government body has been successful in earning increased revenue and has brought about a marked improvement in providing municipal services to the town dwellers. Municipal Mayor Md. Abul Kalam Azad Minto said the agency faced enormous problems in the past but with the help of UGIIP-3 Project, a visible change is taking place now.

Presently the municipality is identifying the problems at the grassroot level and trying to solve those on priority basis. Under this project work is in progress for the construction of 44 kilometer road and construction and reconstruction of 14 kilometer drains. He said so far work on 30 kilometer road and 8 kilometer drain have been completed.

(See Page 10)

Rozina Akhtar: Story of a self reliant woman



Self reliant Rozina Akhtar receiving a crest in recognition to her success

Rozina Akhtar changed the course of her life through the membership of Small Scale Water Resources Development Project of LGED. Since there she gradually became self reliant. Rozina Akhtar, who hails from Char Niamat village of Ramchandrapur union under Phulpur upazila of Mymensingh district, had to struggle very hard to maintain her family as her husband was a low paid employee of a non-government organisation (NGO). The six member family faced further difficult time when her husband suddenly lost his job. But with the indomitable spirit, she never felt defected. With a strong determination, she took the responsibility of her family and enrolled herself as a member of

Water Management Cooperative Society of the Kharia river sub-project under the Small Scale Water Resources Development Project of LGED's greater Mymensingh, Sylhet and Faridpur area. She started walking along the path of success by receiving training from the project and took up self employment initiatives which fetched good amount of money.

The skill training she attended under the project included cow fattening, poultry and cattle rearing, vegetable gardening, integrated crop management, seed preservation, tailoring, gender and development as well as awareness building on environment. Her mental strength was high after her participation

in there vocational and skill training programmes.

Rozina Akhtar said the post training knowledge, skill and the financial returns boosted her morale and she took up teaching profession in Ananda School. Side by side she continued with poultry rearing, beef fattening and tailoring by procuring a sewing machine. Later, she took admission in a college and passed the Higher Secondary Certificate examination. She is currently pursuing her graduation degree. Rozina has also established a school with her own earning and opened a furniture and crockeries shop at a cost of 3 lakh taka for her husband where commodities worth 8 lakh taka are on sale. She has also bought 52 decimal land and their annual income now stands at about 9 lakh taka. Rozina said the turn around was possible as a result of her membership with Water Management Cooperative Society (WMCS) Limited of Kharia river sub-project of LGED. She is now an icon in her locality as a woman gifted with qualities like hard work and self reliance. Rozina now works for the upliftment of local women community and her success is a source of inspiration for others. As a recognition to her success, she was awarded second prize in the LGED's sector wise category of Best Self-Reliant Woman on the occasion of International Woman's Day-2018.

Ishwardi Municipality

(contd. from page 09)

Besides, sanitary land fill and construction of treatment plant for fecal sludge is progressing fast. Four production wells have been bored for minimizing misuse of water and improvement in water supply management while three thousand meter have been installed for water billing. The municipality has shown encouraging progress in tax collection and ever since the project was taken up the revenue collection has gone up three fold which was 88.29 percent upto June 2018. At the same time the collection of non-municipal tax and trade license fee have shown upward trend. Electricity bill payment is 99.55 percent and various awareness programmes have been taken up, including holding tax fare to motivate

municipal dwellers to tax regularise tax payment. Participation of woman and less privileged ones have been ensured at all level of the municipal activities. Several programmes including tailoring training and distribution of sewing machines have been taken up for the upliftment of neglected section of women while rickshaws are being given to poor members of the society. Similarly other programmes are underway to ensure transparency and accountability. UGIIP-3 is currently running various activities for strengthening capacity of 36 municipalities with objectives of improvement in municipal governance and infrastructural development as part of government's vision-2021 and implementation of SDGs.

facility in Haor area

(contd. from page 11)

With its proven effectiveness, the number of Killas to be built which was fixed at 20, now have been increased to 28 after necessary revision made in the construction plan.

Local people's representatives say, when completed the Killas will save several thousand tons of crops from the damages of floods every year. The structures go under water during monsoon but remains intact despite being pushed by waves. No extra measures are needed for its protection as the Killas are built suiting the environment.

The weeds and plants those grow around the Killas, act as protection of the slopes and during the unused period, the Killas are used as cattle head sheds.

National Mourning Day 2018 observed in LGED with due solemnity



Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan distributing prizes among the juvenile participants of the painting competition arranged on the occasion of the National Mourning Day.

August is the month of mourning. Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members were assassinated on 15th of this month, known as the worst brutal killing ever committed in history. The day is observed as the National Mourning Day. LGED observed the day with due solemnity and respect. Officers and employees led by Chief Engineer of LGED placed floral wreaths at the portrait of the father of the nation at Dhanmondi road 32 in the capital to mark the day. Wreaths were also placed at the portrait of the Father of the Nation at the LGED premises. In the afternoon,

the Chief Engineer along with officers and staff of LGED visited the Banani graveyard in the capital where they offered special prayers and placed floral wreaths at the graves of those martyred on 15th August 1975. Quran Khwani and special prayers were also held at the LGED headquarters seeking eternal peace for the departed souls. Like every year, painting competition for children was also held this year to enlighten them about Bangabandhu's dream of building "Golden Bangla". In the first phase children of officers and staff from 64 districts took part in the competition divided into three

groups. Those secured first positions at the district level took part in the final round held on 15th August 2018 at the LGED headquarters. Winners were awarded with prizes and certificates. Speaking on the occasion Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan said philosophy of the father of the nation is the guiding force and inspiration for us in all spheres of our life. Bangladesh achieved independence under his leadership and he had united people from all walks of life irrespective of cast, creed or religion in the freedom struggle of the Bangalee nation. Addressing the juvenile participants, Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan said we have to be imbued with the ideals of Bangabandhu to be worthy citizens. Speaking on the occasion Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad said father of the nation had dedicated himself for the welfare of the people since his childhood. He said the personality of this great man was like the Everest summit. Today's children are the future of the nation and to lead the country they should inculcate patriotism. He said to be a true patriot we need to know the life and achievements of Bangabandhu and should be inspired with his ideals. Additional Chief Engineer (Implementation) Md. Khalilur Rahman also addressed the function.



Bogir Killa built at Bniachong, Habiganj

Killa: Unique grain storage facility in Haor area

The Haor (extensive marsh) areas are lashed by early downpour during boro season causing serious disruption to road communication made of earth. On the other hand, despite rains, boats cannot ply on the cropfields as the water level remains very low. Farmers cannot harvest the crops because of transportation problem which ultimately leads to serious impediment in

processing the paddy and causes huge financial loss due to marketing problem. To address the problem an initiative was taken up to build Killa or earthen mounds under the Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection (CALIP) component of Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project (HILIP). A suitable place preferably public land or piece of land donated by farmers are

used for building the Killa or earthen mound. It is raised above ground level as a safe place for storing grains or keeping cattle heads. Farmers can also process the crops there. The stocks are later transported by boats with the rise of water level. The newly built safe storage facilities have brought great relief for the farmers. Steps have been taken to build 20 Killas in the first phase in Haor areas.

In the meantime 8 Killas have been completed which included 4 in Habiganj, one in Netrokona, 2 in Brahmanbaria and one in Kishoreganj district. One Killa is under construction at sullah under Sunamganj. Benefits of the Killas for safe storage of grains are now visible. In Habiganj alone, 125 metric tons of paddy was stored and processed at Bogir Killa under Baniachong upazila during 2017 floods.

(See Page 10)

Observance of World Environment Day

As elsewhere in the world, the World Environment Day was also observed in Bangladesh to create awareness about global warming and climate change vulnerability. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the World Environment Day programme and Environment Fair at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital on 18 July 2018 to mark the day. She also opened the National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair 2018.

The theme of this year's National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair 2018 was "Live in Green, Save Green, Decorate Urban Areas, Lifestyle and the Nature in Green". Expressing her unanimity with the slogan, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon all to create verdancy across the country. She planted a sapling of *Alatonia Scholaris* (Chatim) on the western side of the conference centre and went round various stalls put up for display in the environment fair and tree fair. Like every year, LGED participated in the World Environment Day programme



Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting the LGED stall after inaugurating the World Environment Day programme and Environment Fair at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre

and Environment Fair 2018 as well as in the National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair 2018. While going round the fair, Honourable Prime Minister saw the LGED stall put up there and was briefed about the overall activities of the agency. At this time the Prime Minister expressed her satisfaction over the solar system programme introduced by

LGED in the community clinics. It may be mentioned that LGED is involved in the roadside tree plantation across the country since 1980s. Plantation of Palm trees have been taken up as per directives of the Honourable Prime Minister for maintaining environmental balance and save people from cloudbursts.

July-September 2018

ECNEC approves 5 projects under LGED

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved a total of 5 projects under Local Government Engineer Department (LGED) involving a cost of Tk. 8010.54 crore. The approval was given at the ECNEC meeting held at the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka with ECNEC Chairperson and Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The projects are upazila town (non-municipality) master plan preparation and basic infrastructural development, project on promoting climate resilience for vulnerable segment of people through access to infrastructures, improved skill development and access to information. The other projects are construction of access road to Sheikh Hasina Bridge on Mohananda river under Chapainawabganj Pourashava, infrastructure development of 8 pourashavas under Jamalpur district including improvement of drainage



ECNEC Chairperson and Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over the ECNEC meeting at the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar NEC Conference room

system and assistance to the development of bridges on rural roads. The projects have been undertaken with the aim of improving and maintaining rural infrastructures for developing agricultural and non-agricultural production, speed-up trade and

commerce, creating employment opportunities, alliviate poverty and ensuring improved livelihood. The projects will also help develop sustainable cities through planned urbanization and enhance capacity to provide quality of public services.